

Champ Clark's Letter.

(Special Washington Letter.)

It is rare indeed that a Democratic representative in congress from the wild and woolly west has the distinguished honor of a correspondence with his excellency the governor of Massachusetts even on a public question. This honor has lately come to me. It will be remembered by those who pay any attention to politics that the Hon. Curtis Guild, Jr., was elected governor in 1905 and re-elected in 1906 as a Republican. As soon as he was first elected he wrote a letter to the president urging him to incorporate a tariff revision section in his annual message to congress, in which letter he stated that had not the Massachusetts Republican platform of 1905 declared for immediate tariff revision he and all the rest of the Republican ticket would have been overwhelmingly defeated. President Roosevelt paid no attention to the letter, so far as any one ever discovered. At least he made no such recommendation to congress. From that time to this certain Massachusetts Republicans, of whom Governor Guild is the most distinguished, have been agitating for tariff revision with great earnestness and voting the Republican ticket with great regularity notwithstanding the fact that the Republican machine in the United States is completely in the hands of the stand-patters. Quite recently Governor Guild wrote me the following letter, with the inclosure, to which he refers in his letter:

Executive Chamber, Statehouse, Boston, Mass., Feb. 12.
Hon. Champ Clark, House of Representatives, Washington.
Dear Sir:—I beg to inclose for your information a copy of a petition addressed to the president and congress in regard to a matter of public importance and also a copy of my letter of transmittal. With high respect, believe me, faithfully yours,
CURTIS GUILD, JR.

COPY OF LETTER FROM GOVERNOR CURTIS GUILD, JR., OF MASSACHUSETTS TO THE PRESIDENT.

To the President of the United States, White House, Washington:

Sir—I have the honor of transmitting to you herewith a petition signed by me and by more than three-fourths of the members of each branch of the general court of Massachusetts in support of the tariff revision recommended by Senator Root and by the late national foreign trade convention. Copies of this address have been forwarded to the members of each branch of congress.

You will, I am sure, appreciate that a signature by which the individual makes himself publicly responsible as endorsing the views to which he subscribes is of greater significance than anonymous assent to resolutions passed in the legislature by viva voce vote or even a record by roll call.

The signatures to this memorial include those of the governor, the president of the senate and speaker of the house and of every member of the legislative committee on federal relations. There are 289 members of the general court, of whom 221 have signed this petition. Of the 40 members of the senate, 36 have signed. Of the 249 members of the house of representatives 187 have signed. Of the 203 Republicans in the general court 154 have signed. Of the 46 Democrats 35 have signed. I am confident that, were it deemed desirable to keep this petition open longer for signatures, more members of the legislature would sign.

In the conviction that this expression of public opinion will be given every proper consideration, I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
CURTIS GUILD, JR.

[Copy of petition.]

To the President and the Congress of the United States:

Believing heartily in the mission of Secretary Root to establish closer relations between the peoples of America and being also of the opinion that tariff laws should be changed as conditions change, we endorse the attitude in behalf of tariff revision taken by the late national foreign trade convention at Washington.

We endorse the principle there approved of the creation of maximum and minimum tariff schedules to be applied without the intervention of treaties, but otherwise following the general precedent of the reciprocity clause in the McKinley tariff in favor of such countries as will make concessions to us.

We further favor the establishment, as urged by the convention, of a tariff commission that shall impartially investigate and report from time to time to congress when schedules appear to be in need of modification, whether in cases where duties once needed for the protection of American industries have become or may become obsolete or unnecessary or, on the other hand, where new industries may require new protection or new expenses further revenue.

In all cases of tariff revision, however, the test should be not "is such a duty demanded?" but "is such a duty demanded?"

We respectfully urge upon the president and the congress immediate action along these lines, and should the limitation of time make this impossible in the present session of congress we respectfully petition the president to use the powers placed in his hands for the consideration of this subject without further delay.

CURTIS GUILD, JR., Governor.

WILLIAM D. CHAPPEL, President of the Senate.

JOHN N. COLE, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

To Governor Guild's letter I replied as follows:

House of Representatives, Feb. 12.

Governor Curtis Guild, Jr.,

Sir—Your favor of Feb. 12 to hand, inclosing copy of your letter to the president, together with copy of a petition to the president and congress of the United States in favor of tariff revision, I beg leave to suggest that you have just about as much chance to be translated in a charter of fire as you have to secure tariff revision at the hands of the stand-patters, who now control the congressional machine. They are deaf as posts to all appeals in that behalf.

They will never agree to any maximum and minimum tariff scheme unless perhaps to that of Mr. McClary of Minne-

nesota, who proposes to make the Dingley rates the minimum and rates still higher the maximum, which from the standpoint of tariff revisionists would be the worst of the trying pan into the fire. Individually I am in favor of a rational and comprehensive revision of the tariff. Yours respectfully,
CHAMP CLARK.

The Lumber Trust.

That the lumber trust is a great iniquity everybody knows. Not long since the house passed a resolution authorizing an inquiry into the why and wherefore of the astounding rise in the price of white pine lumber, with special reference to the manipulations of lumber prices by the trust. My own judgment was and is that the high tariff on white pine lumber is the why and wherefore of the trust.

One of my most valued constituents, Judge H. C. Lackland of St. Charles, Mo., a prominent lawyer and business man, wrote me the following letter on the subject, which is well worth consideration. Judge Lackland says:

St. Charles, Mo., Feb. 12.
Hon. Champ Clark, Washington.
Dear Sir:—I wish to call your attention to the iniquities of the lumber monopoly in these United States, nurtured by the tariff. As you know, the whole lumber business is in the hands of a trust composed of a few thousand men, which levies tribute on and oppresses and defrauds eight millions of people without any corresponding benefit whatever. This syndicate of trust has got possession of all the timber lands and sawmills of the country, and the prices of the lumber to the whole country are fixed to be a few independent mills, but they have all been compelled to come into the trust, and every bill of lumber ordered by any retail dealer from a supposed independent mill is sent to one general office, and the order is filled from that office and the money collected by it. Every one in the while this trust raises the price of lumber. Last January it raised the price of the retailers \$2 a thousand; last week it raised the price again and this time \$1 a thousand. The orders for a raise of price are given to the retailer, and he is obliged to obey at his peril.

But, sir, all this, defraud and cheat the purchasers and users of lumber in a most shameful manner. For instance, you are going to build a home, and you put in a bill for lumber, and a retailer for a certain number of 2 by 4 studs of the desired length, a certain number of 2 by 12 joist and a certain number of feet of plank by 12 and a desired length. Instead of giving you the dimensions your order calls for, they give you studs 1 1/2 by 3 1/2 and joists 1 1/2 by 11, or even 11 and 12, and 2 by 4s and 2 by 6s, and so on. No matter what dimensions you order, the lumber is cut down in dimensions from half an inch to one inch on all sides, and you are charged up and charged just as if you got full dimensions. If you do not take it that way, you cannot get it at all. The mills make all they cheat you out of in the dimensions, which is a great deal. They can make more lumber out of a log in sawing it up, and they can make more out of a car from the mill to the retailer, and, lastly, they shave a very thin skin off one side of each piece of lumber (which is an order) and burn it with kerosene, the shavings under the boilers for steam. Thus you see this trust is not satisfied with the monopoly of the lumber business in this country, and the prices they make the people pay, but they swindle and cheat and defraud them in the measurement. In a most shameful manner I know where I am speaking. I have been compelled to buy a great deal of lumber for many years.

If anything does me wrong, I am investigated by congress, it is this swindling, cheating lumber trust.

The bar of the tariff on lumber ought to be thrown down so that it can come from all over the world. Very respectfully,
H. C. LACKLAND.

P. S.—The price of lumber has become almost prohibitive.

More Evidence.

Under the caption "The Lumber Problem" the Kansas City Times, independent, says editorially:

Minneapolis has been obliged to close down building operations because of a lack of shingle. This is due to a shortage of cars resulting from the blockade of transcontinental railroads and also to the lumber trust, which controls the traffic and the prices of lumber. The conditions call attention to two phases of the building situation which deserve serious attention.

It has been suggested recently that congress shall lease the reserves for the cutting of such trees as have grown to maturity and are threatened with decay. In this way not only would the waste of lumber be prevented, but competition would be established with the lumber trust, which is pernicious and an obstacle to economical building.

Another remedy is that now being considered by the Pennsylvania legislature, which concerns the future of forests. It is proposed to preserve the state lands intact and make them nurseries for coming forests. Not only are the Alleghenies almost entirely denuded of trees, but the forests of Michigan and Wisconsin have been laid low, while the great northwest, in the grip of the trust, is fast being stripped of trees. It has been argued before the Pennsylvania legislature that, while iron can be turned into steel in a few hours, not all the wealth of the world can make a tree grow faster than nature has from the beginning intended. The fault has been our great profligacy in the beginning. Where a few years ago lumber was saved and sold green at from \$1 to \$2 a thousand feet it is now being cured and planed and brings from \$30 to \$50 a thousand. There are probably enough trees to last a couple of generations, but what will posterity do if we only refuse to preserve the small area of forests remaining, but like the foolish farmer who raised a single crop of wheat and then let the field lie fallow for years, making no provision for future growth of forests?

The Stand Patters.

As another demonstration of how completely the stand patters are wedded to their idols the following transaction will show: Last week Hon. John Sharp Williams, the Democratic house leader, brought up in the committee on ways and means the following bill providing for reciprocity with Canada on coal, which was promptly tabled by a strict party vote. If there was ever a sensible proposition made, it would seem that that of reciprocal free trade in coal between the United States and

Canada is one, but the stand patters would have none of it. The Williams bill is as follows:

That there shall not hereafter be levied, collected nor paid any duty on coal the product of the Dominion of Canada, when shipped or carried into the United States. This act shall take effect, however, upon the issuance of a proclamation by the president of the United States defining forth that the government of the Dominion of Canada has removed the duty now levied and collected by it upon coal the product of the United States shipped or carried into the Dominion of Canada from the United States.

It is hereby made the duty of the president of the United States to issue the said proclamation herein provided for upon the official ascertainment of the fact that the Dominion of Canada has removed the duty on coal the product of the United States, entering the Dominion of Canada.

Proposition to Reform the House Rules.

A great many members are weary of the stringency of the house rules. Among these is Judge Dorsey W. Shackelford of Missouri, now coming to be what the late Charles Fremont Cochran of Missouri would have called "an old and experienced member." The general complaint is that the present rules give the speaker entirely too much power. This is claimed by most Democrats and by a few Republicans. Before Colonel William P. Hepburn was made chairman of the committee on interstate and foreign commerce he would deliver a philippine in each congress against the rules, but since he has been chairman of that committee he has omitted that speech. Whether the chairmanship caused him to quit or whether he came to realize the futility of it, I know not. First and last, Judge Shackelford has made several speeches on the subject himself—excellent speeches, too, full of fire and vigor. The judge evidently learned to spell out of Webster's old blue backed speller and took to heart the story of how an old man tried to scare a boy out of his favorite apple tree by throwing tufts of grass at him. Finding it had no effect, he began to throw rocks, whereupon the boy came down. So the judge, finding that his speeches did not change the situation and with hope still springing in his breast, introduced a resolution which will do the work if he can get it passed. His resolution is in words and figures as follows:

Resolved, That rule 10 of the rules of the house of representatives be amended by striking out all the words "Unless otherwise specially ordered by the house the speaker shall appoint at the commencement of each congress the following standing committees—viz." and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"There shall be selected at the beginning of each congress a standing committee to be called 'committee on organization and order of business.' The speaker shall not be a member thereof. Said committee shall consist of twelve members, who shall be selected in the following manner: Immediately after the election and qualification of the speaker the roll shall be called, and each member of the house, when his name is reached, may cast twelve votes, all of which may be for one person or distributed among several, as he may choose. Twelve persons receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected members of said committee. Said members so selected shall organize by the selection of one of their number as chairman. Two said committee shall be referred all proposed action touching the rules, joint resolutions, and bills, and shall report thereon as soon as selected and organized shall proceed to the appointment of the following standing committees—viz."

Refused a Senate Seat.

Ex-United States Senator Benson of Kansas is a peculiar man. He actually refused an election to the United States senate. True, it was only a forty day fragment of a term, but it was an election nevertheless. It will be remembered that when Senator Burton resigned Governor Hock appointed Benson to serve till the meeting of the legislature, which would elect for both Burton's unfinished term and for a term of six years. Benson was a candidate for both the short and long terms. When Charlie Curtis walked away with the long term it so disgusted Benson that he refused the short term. Sir transit gloria mundi.

Hon. Richard Franklin Pettigrew has been in and about Washington this winter. It is said that he is rich again. He has been rich two or three times before and on his uppers—his physical, not his mental, uppers, for his mentality is never exhausted. It is also said that he is going to be a candidate for the senate again. Wish he may not only be a candidate, but be elected. He would stir up the Republican menagerie at a great rate, and, goodness knows, it needs stirring up. Dick Pettigrew is a radical of radicals, but a man doesn't have to endorse all his ideas in order to wish him well.

If by a recent resolution of inquiry which Senator Clay of Georgia introduced into the senate he can actually find out how much our idiotic course as to the Philippines has cost us, he will have rendered the country a most valuable service and will elicit information which will cause American eyes to bulge out so that they can be knocked off with a stick. If old Ben Franklin could come back to earth, his verdict would be that we have paid dearly for our Philippine whistle.

As soon as President Roosevelt laid his big stick on their backs the rebellious and voluble Californians became mild as sucking doves on the Japanese question and even went so far as to vote for their own effacement. The Democrats in the house, with five or six exceptions, voted against giving the president carte blanche to do as he pleased in immigration matters and against mixed schools, but the Californians were quiet as lambs.

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It is hereby made the duty of the president of the United States to issue the said proclamation herein provided for upon the official ascertainment of the fact that the Dominion of Canada has removed the duty on coal the product of the United States, entering the Dominion of Canada.

Seven years ago a lonely gunboat, the entire sea-tightening equipment of the United States of Venezuela, stemmed from Port-of-Spain into the harbor of Caracas, Venezuela's capital city. The gunboat was the vessel on which the deposed President, Andrade, had fled from his conqueror, Castro, only a few days before. On board was this message from Andrade to Castro: "I return you the navy; you may need it for yourself."

But Andrade was a bad prophet. Cipriano Castro has not yet needed the "navy" to save himself. Though menaced a thousand times by revolutionists and plotters, he has never lost his grip on his self-confidence in the seven years of his usurped power.

CASTRO, THE MAN OF MYSTERY SOUTH AMERICA'S MOST REMARKABLE Dictator.

A Loss of Cattle Started the Venezuelan on the Road to the Presidency, with an Army of Twenty-three—His Cruelty and Defiance of World Powers—Only His Doctor Has No Fear of Him.

(From the New York Evening Post, November 1.)

Seven years ago a lonely gunboat, the entire sea-tightening equipment of the United States of Venezuela, stemmed from Port-of-Spain into the harbor of Caracas, Venezuela's capital city. The gunboat was the vessel on which the deposed President, Andrade, had fled from his conqueror, Castro, only a few days before. On board was this message from Andrade to Castro: "I return you the navy; you may need it for yourself."

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Though born a rude mountaineer (perhaps of mixed blood, for it has been said that he is part Andean Indian), and reared a cattle-smuggler; though favored at the start with no education but what he picked up along the forested march to power, and with no wealth but what he took by dint of trickery, theft, or open violence this man Castro has been an absolute dictator since the first day of his entrance into the capital, defying popular prejudices, laws, courts of justice, secret enemies, and even the most powerful foreign nations.

Boasting as he went on his way stepping into new toils only to wriggle out of them the next day looking over the brink of ruin as if to discover whether he could invent some new effrontery by which to extricate himself, he has succeeded in making his position stronger year by year, pretending at times to grant Constitutional rights to his subjects, but in reality giving them nothing; defeating each plotting opponent in turn, bullying foreigners to the last limit but cautious enough to stop just in time to avoid war with a superior power; in short, disregarding all the rules of law or decency for which other men, even South American adventurers, have some respect, and accomplishing, through sheer courage and "nerve" and individual magnetism results little short of marvelous.

Altogether, Castro is a mystery. His enemies say he is not a diplomat, but merely an audacious spitter; yet he outwits the diplomats and overcomes the conservatives of his own and other lands. They tell you he has had judgment, no tact, no gentleness of feeling, no conscience, even no honesty with his friends; yet he has been a match for the most potent of his traitors, a peer of the most tactful, and he has managed to hold together around him a coterie of advisers whether through friendship or fear, who obey him implicitly and apparently have no fault to find with the rewards he has given them for their years of service. But, after all, it is his army that is to be thanked especially for the continuance of the despotism, and the reason his soldiers stick to him is that he pays them, which is more than any other Venezuelan President ever did.

There is a difference of opinion as to the progenitors of Cipriano Castro. To his biographers and interviewers he has not given an authentic account of his parentage. Some say his mother or his father was an Indian. Others declare that he is sprung from a recent scion of Spanish nobility who fled into the hill-country of Venezuela. In any event, Cipriano first saw the light in the far-away backwoods of the province of Los Andes, and there, when he grew to manhood, he tended cattle on the hills, near the Colombian borders. He is now in the neighborhood of forty-five years—nobody seems to know exactly when he was born.

One story has it that the cattle were his father's but again the inquirer hears that neither father nor son owned an acre of land, in which case the herds must have belonged to somebody else. But, anyway, Castro herded and smuggled. Being near to the Colombian border, it is reported he used to drive the herd from one country to the other so as to avoid the tax collectors of each country when they came around semi-annually. Thus it happened that one day the governor of the province of Los Andes seized two or three oxen in lieu of taxes.

The seizure eventually caused Castro to become President of Venezuela, for his revolution followed a visit to Caracas to enlist

Anarado's assistance against the governor.

When the governor of Los Andes took his cattle, Castro straightway journeyed to Caracas. He saw Andrade. The president would not heed his complaint, but sided with the governor. Castro left the palace, very wrath. Report had it that he went into the public square, collected a small crowd, and said: "The next time I come to Caracas, it will be at the head of an army." The audience, if this ever happened at all, naturally laughed at him. Then he returned to the mountains.

To the governor he sent word that trouble would be forthcoming if the oxen were not returned at once. The governor huffed.

Castro summoned his fellow mountaineers, the men he knew best. There were twenty-three of them at the first meeting. He told them he was going to get up a revolution, and they were to be his army until he could get a bigger one. The "army" started its march down the mountains. Thence forward wonderful happenings crowded upon each other's heels. The report of the brewing revolution spread fast. But it travelled hardly faster than the recruits flocked to join the "army." From every quarter they came. In a few days the governor received a message to the effect that Castro was coming. He laughed again.

Castro had whipped him before the echo of his laughter died away and the few soldiers of the province of Los Andes had deserted to the ranks of the revolution before sundown. The march toward Caracas began in earnest.

Arriving in front of Caracas, the would-be President had acquired a force of seven thousand. He lost no time in beginning to fight. But he did not have a chance to do much of it. Before the battle was well under way the Government forces deserted, giving him complete control. This fact, like many other incidents of his career, was most opportune, for Castro's rule had fallen on him at the start of the battle, breaking his leg, and at the very moment of the defection in Andrade's guard the rebel chief was directing his war operations from a litter.

It was about this time that Andrade, who had remained, still smiling in the palace, heard of what was happening. He became solemn, but he wasted no time trying to recover the day. With less than 200 men, he chose discretion rather than valor, slipped out of the back door, ran to the water front and fled to sea on the "navy." By the time he had reached Port-of-Spain, Island of Trinidad, Castro had marched into Caracas, taken possession of the Government, declared himself dictator, appointed a Cabinet, begun to reorganize the army, sent word to the foreign nations of the earth that he was on top, and had become absolute ruler, boss of all he surveyed.

Of course, everybody began to prophesy the dictator's fall, which was only a matter of time, men said, when he would follow the rest of Venezuela's Presidents. Opinion was divided only as to which one would be his example—Blanco, who had stolen enough money to live and die in Paris, after fleeing from the country; Crespo, who had been shot in battle, or Andrade, who had been driven out by a younger man. When it was reported that Castro was sending boxes of money to France, they said he was following Blanco's lead. When Matos almost won a revolution in 1902, they said Crespo's fate was likely to be Castro's. Many times since then it has been rumored a fleet of revolts was gaining headway enough to frighten him out of the republic.

But all the prophets have been wrong. The nearest any of them came to the truth was in the case of Matos. That gentleman, with the title of "general" like all the other uprisers of South America, gathered a big army. It was that army that the American Asphalt Company was accused of backing. Success seemed certain. Castro, when the enemy approached, had but 7,000 or 8,000 men against more than 20,000. Unlike Andrade, however, he stood his ground. Leading his soldiers out to meet Matos, he won the famous battle of La Victoria, after ten days of fierce fighting.

That was the only time a revolution was even on the threshold of success against Castro. There have been smaller uprisings, many of them—at the present moment

there is one in progress, under Gen. Mantilla, while half a dozen revolutionary agents are in other countries plotting to overthrow the despot—and there have been plots galore, but the diminutive dictator has nipped them all, and until he recently pardoned and released all his political prisoners and allowed Matos to return to Venezuela, hardly one of the rebels or plotters had escaped jail or banishment.

In putting down the rebels, Castro has balked at no extreme cruelty or injustice. In one case he had that rebel leader, Gen. Acosta, shot by a firing squad. This happened in the day before he announced a "Constitution" with a great flourish of trumpets. In that Constitution, which was followed by a farcical "election" backed by Castro's bayonets, capital punishment was abolished.

Though the dictator announced that it was time for Venezuela to be governed constitutionally (this was about two years after he captured Caracas) and despite the laws he authorized, his rule continued just as it had begun. Except for occasional reprisals from foreign Governments, after some extraordinary outrage, his course has been unchecked. He has thrown men into jail, Venezuelans and foreigners, for no cause save that they refused to give up money for the support of the Government. He has caused rivals to "disappear" after casting them into the fetid prison known as "The Black Hole of Caracas." He has bought judges of his so-called "courts of justice" or thrown them into jail for trying to administer the laws he helped to establish.

While ostensibly yielding to demands by foreign Powers in behalf of their subjects every now and then, the Venezuelan despot has in reality broken international laws and infringed upon international courtesy hundreds of miles, without being officially selected. The notable protest of Germany over the case of a German merchant whom Castro's soldiers tortured into giving up \$20,000 was probably attributable to the large amount. In all likelihood, the merchant would have paid \$500 with out a murmur. As it was, a German warship went to Caracas, and Castro was forced both to pay back the money and to punish the officers who had done the torturing by his own orders.

He yielded with bad grace, but, as in other instances of the kind, he had judgment enough to retreat from a wrong position at the last moment. That he did not make redress from any sense of justice, was proven about the same time by the barbarous treatment of three native Venezuelan traders, who, after refusing to pay over \$80,000 for the "support of the Government," were forced to do so by being tied to stakes in the blazing sun, with powerful electric lights, pointed on their eyes as a variation after the sun went down in the evening.

After boasting—he is always boasting, by the way, and one of his favorite ideas is that he rivals Napoleon as a military man—that he had legal power to annul Venezuelan concessions to foreigners, Castro finally put into practice his theory by selling for \$40,000 a concession claimed by the American Asphalt Company, known as the Asphalt controversy.

This was the cause of the "asphalt controversy" about which American newspaper readers have heard more than about any of Castro's performances. America, of course, came to the front to protect her citizens. It was agreed that the Venezuelan courts should interpret the laws on the questions at issue. There seemed to be a vain impression that Castro respected the courts. But to the amazement of us in the United States, the South American president simply manipulated justice by discharging an attorney-general, who was willing to think according to orders. Later, after settling the asphalt matter to the satisfaction in this way, he actually threw an honest judge into prison for daring to suggest that conditions in the country's jails were not as they should be and for threatening to expose the hidden scandals relating to prisoners cast into cells without trial.

Castro has been "elected" several times—that is, there has been "voting" under the orders of his soldiers. As a matter of fact, there is never an opposition candidate in Venezuela, except in a revolution, and there is no possibility of a new president being chosen except through force. Once prior to his withdrawal of last summer the dictator turned in a "resignation" to the national Congress, but it was proved later, that he never meant it to be accepted, and the result was that he was "elected" for another three-year or five-year term—the number of years has varied at the different "elections" according to the proclamation preceding the "voting."

The dictator is a strange mixture of polish, untruthfulness, diplomacy, irritability, and conceit. Probably the conceit is most evil.

ent in his make-up. When somebody was telling him about how the Japanese took Port Arthur, he said: "Bah! With 500 Venezuelans I could have taken it in four days." A foreign minister, who happened to hear the boast and wished to flatter the President, remarked: "With thousands, in one day, your Excellency."

The only man not afraid of Castro, so the story goes, is his doctor. On one occasion, at a ball, the physician was approached by a foreign diplomat who, wishing to be polite, said:

"What a graceful dancer Gen. Castro is."

"He's a monkey," responded the doctor coolly.

"Oh!" responded the foreigner, "I thought every one in Venezuela was afraid to say such things."

"I'm his medical adviser," was the doctor's grim explanation.

That there will be any change while Castro is able to direct affairs seems far from likely. Even when he is ill, his skill as a leader stays with him. Upon returning from his rest in the country, on July 4, he played again his favorite game of impressing the public having arranged a gorgeous "welcome" into the capital, accompanied by much noise of brass bands and displaying of fireworks and marching of soldiery. That is his way. He atones for lack of real improvements by making a show for the show-loving people. It has been said that the majority of Venezuelans regard far more highly a ruler of the gold-lace and gun-play variety, even if he be a blackmailer, an extortioner, and a peacock, than they do a President who uses the public funds and his own talents to uphold the schools, the commerce, and the peace of the country.

NOTE: The writer was probably misled into making this statement by the fact that several years ago an infringing title to part of the asphalt property was sold to a rival interest for \$40,000. But the purchaser never benefited by this move because President Castro, in 1904, himself seized the Bermudez Asphalt Lake and appointed a receiver, who has ever since been engaged in seeking asphalt for the joint account of Castro, the receiver, and A. L. Barber, the agent in New York who acted as the distributor. These facts, often alleged by the asphalt company, have been verified lately by testimony given in a suit pending in the New York Supreme Court.

A witness in this case testified that Mr. Barber told him verbally, and wrote letters (produced in court) which expose the plans made by Castro, the "receiver" and Barber to market the asphalt from the seized property. This was before the courts had acted on the seizure, but Mr. Barber explained to the witness that "most of the judges who had been unfavorable had been removed" and that there was "nothing to do but wait patiently for the mills of the courts to grind out the grist which we are all anxious to get."

PROVIDING.

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at one sitting. To provide for these, thirty-five cooks will be employed, and 250 waiters. The baking plant will turn out 3,000 loaves and 3,000 pies a day. A power operated dish-washing machine will wash 100,000 pieces of crockery a day. Hand and power meat grinders and cutters and vegetable mashers and presses will be used. Meat is purchased in carload lots and the refrigerator cars will enter the grounds. A large dairy will supply milk and cheese daily. Butter working and cutting machines will have a capacity of two tons an hour. The roast meat capacity will be 25,000 pounds a day. Eggs will be bought by the thousands and dozen. The celebrated Smith field ham will be bought in 12,000 pound lots. The camp will use 500 gallons of coffee a day and about 75,000 gallons of water. The ranges will be of the fifty-foot hotel variety with ovens and broilers and 100-foot warming tables. The camp will operate a special laundry for its linen with steam drying plant. The plant will be lighted with forty thousand candle power arc and incandescent lights.

There are many other restaurants within the grounds, besides those of the mammoth Inside Inn, being among those of the Old Jamestown, a feature of the Warpath, and the Swiss Village. The tertiary city, to be known as Camp Jamestown, outside the grounds, will also have its own restaurant, making it a complete canvas hotel.

Many other refreshment booths and the eating facilities provided by the numerous steam craft plying to and from the grounds will abundantly supply the needs of hungering humanity which generally develops a healthy appetite in the course of a day sight-seeing, especially at the seashore.

Eyes tested and fitted with glasses. Ozone cures catarrh, electric massage cures deafness. See Dr. Langer, Huber Block.